



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/037,916	03/10/1998	NOBUHIKO NISHIO	P8287-8002	7683

7590 02/25/2002

ARENT FOX KINTNER PLOTKIN & KAHN, PLLC
1050 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W., SUITE 400
WASHINGTON, DC 20036-5339

EXAMINER

SOUGH, HYUNG SUB

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2161

DATE MAILED: 02/25/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

HG

NM

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/037,916	NISHIO ET AL.
	Examiner Hyung S. Sough	Art Unit 2161

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 December 2001.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 13-19 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 13-19 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. & 119(e).

Attachment(s)

15) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

16) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

17) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 26.

18) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.

19) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

20) Other: _____

Art Unit: 2161

Continued Prosecution Application

1. The request filed on December 31, 2001 for a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) under 37 CFR 1.53(d) based on parent Application No. 09/037,916 is acceptable and a CPA has been established. An action on the CPA follows.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement filed on May 16, 2001 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each U.S. and foreign patent; each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. More specifically, substantial number of pages are missing from the cited foreign patents. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

Specification

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: .

- It contains the reference numeral ("S1504" page 40, line 9) which is not in the drawings.

Applicant is advised to carefully review the entire specification for further needed corrections.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

Art Unit: 2161

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 13-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

• Claim 13, lines 4-5 and 7-8, “each terminal” does not have proper antecedent basis, respectively. More specifically, prior to this there is no recitation that “a first terminal group” and “a second terminal group” have a plurality of terminals.

Lines 27-28, the phrase “an amount of money requested from outside from said first purse ...” cannot be clearly understood. More specifically, “outside” of “IC card”, “first purse”, “second purse” or what?

• Claim 14, lines 19-20, the phrase “an amount of money requested from outside from said first purse ...” cannot be clearly understood. More specifically, “outside” of “IC card”, “first purse”, “second purse” or what?

Applicant is advised to carefully review all the claims for further needed corrections.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 2161

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 13-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Read (EFTPOS: electronic funds transfer at point of sale: ELECTRONICS & COMMUNICATION ENGINEERING JOURNAL NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1989, pp 263-270) in view of Harrop (New electronics for payment: IEE REVIEW OCTOBER 1989, pp 339-342), Schuler et al. (Schuler hereinafter: WO 90/15382) and Powers (US PAT. 5,521,362).

Re claim 13, Read discloses an electronic purse system having all of the features claimed except for the explicit disclosure of (a) the second terminal group which does not perform ciphering/deciphering of the information related to money, (b) the claimed access control program, and (c) a transferring unit for transferring an amount of money requested from a vendor from said first purse to said second purse as electronic money: *a first terminal group (i.e., ATM) which can transfer money to an IC card; wherein each terminal in the first group includes a first ciphering/deciphering unit (i.e., encryption/decryption system); (2) a second terminal group (i.e., telephone); and an IC card including a first purse (i.e., a secret level), a second level (i.e., a free level), and a second ciphering/deciphering unit (i.e., encryption/decryption system) for the first purse.* However, as shown by Harrop, it is well known in the art to use a prepayment card for payphones and the prepayment card does not perform ciphering and deciphering of the information related to money. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the electronic purse system of Read by adopting the teaching of Harrop (i.e., by

Art Unit: 2161

replacing the second level of Read with the prepayment phone card of Harrop) to facilitate the use of the smart card by eliminating ciphering/deciphering steps for a transaction which does not require high security. Further, the electronic purse system of Read modified by Harrop would inherently work as claimed, i.e., performing cipher/decipher the information for the transaction between the first terminal group and IC card and without performing cipher/decipher the information for the transaction between the second terminal group and IC card. Still further, Schuler discloses the use of an access control program (*i.e.*, *Access control*) including a first purse access program (*i.e.*, *Access application zone*), a second purse access program (*i.e.*, *Unprotected zones*), and a selecting step program (e.g., to access one of two zones, there should be a selecting step based on the information provided to IC card), wherein the first purse access program (*i.e.*, *Access application zone*) can access both the first and second purse to transfer money from the first purse to the second purse but a second terminal group cannot access to the first access program to minimize the loss of the fund. Thus, it would have been within the level of ordinary skill in the art to modify the electronic purse system of Read by adopting the teachings of Schuler to facilitate the use of the smart and to minimize the loss of the fund when the card is lost or stolen. Still further, Powers (col. 1, line 63-col. 2, line 10) teaches the use of a transferring unit for transferring an amount of money requested from a vendor from a first purse (e.g., a first register of a memory) to a second purse (e.g., a second register of the memory) to provide protection for the user from withdrawing of an unauthorized amount of money by an unscrupulous vendor. Thus, it would have been within the level of ordinary skill in the art to

Art Unit: 2161

modify the electronic purse system of Read by adopting the teaching of Powers to further enhance the security of the electronic purse system.

Re claims 14-19, Read discloses an IC card having all of the features claimed except for the explicit disclosure of (a) making a payment from the second purse without performing ciphering/deciphering of the information related to money, (b) the claimed access control program, and (c) a transferring unit for transferring an amount of money requested from a vendor from said first purse to said second purse as electronic money: *an IC card including a first purse (i.e., a secret level) having a first ciphering/deciphering means (i.e., encryption/decryption system) and a second level (i.e., a free level) and a second level (i.e., a free level).* However, as shown by Harrop, it is well known in the art to use a prepayment card for various terminals (i.e., payphones, vending machines and ticket machines) and the prepayment card does not perform ciphering and deciphering of the information related to money. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the IC card of Read by adopting the teaching of Harrop (i.e., by replacing the second level of Read with the prepayment card of Harrop) to facilitate the use of the smart card by eliminating ciphering/deciphering steps for a transaction which does not require high security. Further, the IC card of Read modified by Harrop would inherently work as claimed, i.e., performing cipher/decipher the information for the transaction between the first terminal group and IC card and without performing cipher/decipher the information for the transaction between the second terminal group and IC card. Still further, a recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention (e.g., "for storing a first amount of money")

Art Unit: 2161

must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use (e.g., EEPROM used for making the IC card of Read), then it meets the claim. Still further, Schuler discloses the use of an access control program (*i.e.*, *Access control*) including a first purse access program (*i.e.*, *Access application zone*), a second purse access program (*i.e.*, *Unprotected zone*), and a selecting step program (e.g., to access one of two zones, there should be a selecting step based on the information provided to IC card), wherein the first purse access program (*i.e.*, *Access application zone*) can access both the first and second purse to transfer money from the first purse to the second purse but a second terminal group cannot access to the first access program to minimize the loss of the fund. Thus, it would have been within the level of ordinary skill in the art to modify the electronic purse system of Read by adopting the teachings of Schuler to facilitate the use of the smart and to minimize the loss of the fund when the card is lost or stolen. Still further, Powers (col. 1, line 63-col. 2, line 10) teaches the use of a transferring unit for transferring an amount of money requested from a vendor from a first purse (e.g., a first register of a memory) to a second purse (e.g., a second register of the memory) to provide protection for the user from withdrawing of an unauthorized amount of money by an unscrupulous vendor. Thus, it would have been within the level of ordinary skill in the art to modify the electronic purse system of Read by adopting the teaching of Powers to further enhance the security of the IC card applicable to the electronic purse system.

Art Unit: 2161

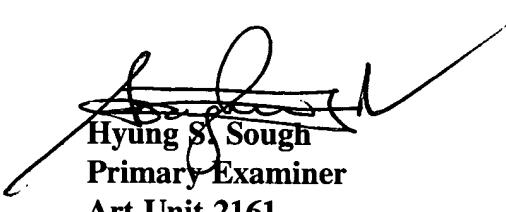
Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 13-19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hyung S. Sough whose telephone number is (703) 308-0505. The Examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, The Examiner's Supervisor, James P Trammell, can be reached on (703) 305-9768.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-3900. The Group Fax number is (703) 308-1396.



Hyung S. Sough
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2161

shs

February 24, 2002